



**IN THE CLAIMS:**

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**Please cancel claims 5-20 without prejudice.**

**Please amend claims 1-4 as follows:**

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1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, [comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a novel mammalian gene from the *bcl-2* family and comprising] wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having an amino acid sequence selected from [substantially as set forth in] SEQ ID NO:7, [or] SEQ ID NO:9, [or] a sequence having at least about 47% [or greater] similarity to either of SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9, or a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 9, and wherein said protein enhances cell survival.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9 [or encodes a derivative thereof].

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein [the] said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence [substantially] set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8 [or comprises a derivative of said sequence].

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein said nucleic acid molecule [is capable of hybridizing] hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8 under low stringency conditions [and encodes an amino acid sequence which has 47% or greater similarity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:9].